

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Participation in USDA's Food Assistance Programs over the Business Cycle

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EIB

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information
USDA [] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
Agency Contact: Patrick Sullivan, sullivan@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers 15 domestic food and nutrition assistance programs that together serve one in four Americans at some point during the year. The five largest programs—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)—accounted for 96 percent of USDA's expenditures for food and nutrition assistance in 2010. These programs form a nutritional safety net for millions of children and low-income adults, a role that is especially important when the economy falters and many Americans lose jobs and income. As means-tested programs, these food and nutrition assistance programs are intrinsically linked to the economy. However, changes in program participation in response to economic conditions vary markedly across these programs. This report presents an analysis of the relationship between economic conditions and participation in each of these food and nutrition assistance programs.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers
[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 12/8/11 End: XX/XX/XX Completed: XX/XX/XX

Number of Reviewers: [] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [] Designated Outside Organization
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [] Yes [X] No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [] Yes [X] No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [] Yes [X] No

